



## Community Values That will guide harbor development

July 7, 2008

Derived from five community discussions held the first two weeks of June, 2008

To the Community

July 2, 2008

We wish to express our appreciation to the people who have contributed their positive ideas to this process. We have found listening to the community to be a powerful event. The revitalization of our harbor will be ongoing and will benefit from continued endeavors to keep the process open and inclusive.

Sincerely,  
The Members of the Community Panel

Our community speaks of the need for change on the waterfront, of restoring the port as the center of activity for its citizens.

There is a sense that while our fishing industry will always define Gloucester, a changing economy requires diversification and evolution of economic activity in the port.

People overwhelmingly support public access along the waterfront, noting the inaccessibility of the harbor to its citizens, especially its youth.

Citizens support greater public use of the water itself, including the mixes of recreational and commercial boating.

The community advocates for change that respects the character and heritage of the city.

There is wide-spread belief that the complex regulatory environment has stifled harbor development.

Many in the community travel the world over, and testify that this harbor is perhaps the most beautiful harbor in the world. Citizens want a harbor that is once again the center of civic pride.

# Community Values

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June 17, 2008

### **Make the Harbor a hub of economic activity. Be flexible while respecting the working character of the port.**

- Support the fishing industry and adding value shore-side to the catch.
- Support mixed industrial and commercial uses that provide year round jobs on the waterfront.
- Create flexibility that promotes investment in harbor properties.
- Make Gloucester a welcoming port for the transient boating community. Provide the required complete range of services.
- Encourage uses that rely upon water access.
- Proactively seek new marine related industries and research centers to locate in the harbor.
- Create linkages to educational institutions.
- Integrate water shuttles and water taxis into the harbor economy.
- Foster the creation and production of art as a legitimate supporting commercial use for the working waterfront.
- Tourism is part of the history and character of Gloucester and is a supporting segment of the economy.

### **Make the Harbor a hub of community activity. Provide access to, along, and across the water.**

- Create public access along the waterfront as shown by harbor walks and planned connections.
- Provide ways that citizens, especially our youth, can both get to and onto the water.
- Increase citizen access to boating: (examples mentioned included increased moorings, dinghy docks, public tie-ups, dockage for recreational boats, and a community boating center.)
- Mix recreational and commercial boating in ways that would create compatible boating activity in the harbor.
- Encourage access by water for both citizens and visitors.

### **Ensure that harbor development respects the heritage of Gloucester**

- Develop and enforce effective design and architectural review.
- Recognize and link historic focal points.
- Plan for compatibility with traditional fishing and neighborhood uses.
- Plan for use and benefit to the residents of the City.

### **Encourage harbor development.**

- Simplify the complex regulatory and permitting environment.
- Make bureaucracies accountable to realistic permitting timeframes.
- Plan for traffic and parking needs from increased harbor usage.
- Use caution so as not to lose our character and identity.
- Diversify uses to provide added economic stability.
- Balance development and preservation.

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## Appendix A: Purpose and Process

In May, 2008, Mayor Carolyn Kirk invited the citizens of Gloucester to speak about their values and visions for the future of Gloucester Harbor. The purpose was to guide the Mayor's recommendations for harbor planning, in particular a contested draft 2006 Harbor Plan and proposed rezoning of the Fort Square district of the City.

Listening Posts held in five (5) different city neighborhoods were made available on five (5) different evenings during the first two weeks of June to offer the opportunity for the community to shape the future of the harbor. The administration presented visual conceptual harbor development scenarios to initiate the conversation. Citizens were invited to share their thoughts, concerns and perspectives. A Community Panel of nine citizens was charged with listening for the themes spoken in the meetings and distilling those themes into core community values that would guide decisions on harbor development.

At each meeting the administration distributed an agenda, a document explaining the process and future steps, and a list and description of the community panel members. The Listening Posts were recorded and replayed on cable television. The power point presentation and minutes of all meetings were published on the city website along with explanations of the harbor planning process from the inception of the 2006 Harbor Plan process onward. Comments were received via mail and email as well as in the public meetings. A draft of the Community Values was made available on the city website for public comment. Public comments and resultant actions are also available on the city website. The local daily newspaper published the schedule of the meetings, and wrote numerous articles about the meetings.

This document represents the collaborative effort of the citizens of Gloucester who spoke, the nine members of the panel, the City Development Office and the Mayor's Office. We wish to thank everyone who participated. To those who were unable to do so at the June meetings, please refer to the ongoing process as referred to below.

The City Council will hold public hearings on specific recommendations that result from the harbor discussions. The first recommendation will be rezoning of the Fort areas that are outside the state-regulated Designated Port Area. The second step will be holding a workshop regarding a final recommendation from the administration on the draft 2006 Harbor Plan. Please check with the Community Development Department for specific schedules (contact information is at bottom of each page.)